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SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 620
By Burks

A RESOLUTION urging the Department of Education to disseminate information relative to the sharing of student disciplinary information to public schools and teachers.

WHEREAS, classroom teachers assume many responsibilities during the school day, including the supervision and discipline of students; and

WHEREAS, student misbehavior is a detriment to individual learning and hinders academic progress for all students; and

WHEREAS, teachers need the utmost support of administrators to effectuate a desirable and safe classroom environment that promotes learning; and

WHEREAS, this support should include, but should not be limited to, appropriate professional development activities, a safe physical environment, and the sharing of student information; and

WHEREAS, teachers have a legitimate educational interest in having access to student information, including disciplinary records; and

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WHEREAS, as our society becomes more mobile, student transfers among schools are more common and the sharing of student information becomes more vital; and

WHEREAS, state and federal law permit access to student records by employees of local education agencies, while at the same time prohibiting disclosure of student records to unauthorized parties; and

WHEREAS, under limited circumstances, certain juvenile records of students enrolled in public schools are available to school principals and may be shared with teachers having supervision of these students during the school day; and

WHEREAS, some confusion may exist among administrators and teachers regarding the legally permissible extent to which student records may be disclosed to and shared among educators; and

WHEREAS, it is desirable that principals and teachers be provided with specific information about the disclosure and sharing of student disciplinary information; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIRST GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, That the Department of Education is hereby requested to prepare and provide to all public schools a concise and practical guide to the legally permissible practices for the disclosure and sharing of student disciplinary information among educators.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Department of Education is requested to make such guide available to all public school classroom teachers in Tennessee.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an enrolled copy of this resolution be transmitted to the Commissioner of Education.